

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 MC-02 /073 W

----- 074985

R 121528Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0970

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T OSLO 0186

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM PFOR MASS G NO

SUBJ: DEPARTMENTAL STUDY OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SUPPLY RESTRAINTS

REF: STATE 4313

1. IN GENERAL TERMS, NORWAY IS A PURCHASER RATHER  
THAN A SUPPLIER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS, A SITUATION  
WHICH WILL REMAIN TRUE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

2. THERE IS A SMALL, AGGRESSIVE ARMS INDUSTRY IN NORWAY,  
LED BY THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED DONGSBERG WEAPONS FACTORY, WHICH  
WOULD FAVOR EXPANDED ARMS PRODUCTION AND SALES.

THIS IS A VERY UNREPRESENTATIVE, MINORITY GROUP,

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HOWEVER, AND THE BROAD MORAL DICTATES OF NORWEGIAN

SOCIETY AS INTERPRETED AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE RULING  
LABOR PARTY WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY OVERWHELMINGLY  
OPPOSE ANY NATIONAL POLICY AIMED AT INCREASING ARMS  
SALES.

3. HAVING SAID THIS THE QUESTION THEN ARISES WHETHER  
NORWAY WOULD WELCOME SOME SORT OF RESTRAINING INITIATIVE.  
WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE POLITICAL REACTION TO ANY IN-  
ITIATIVE AIMED AT RESTRAINING CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS  
WOULD BE ENTIRELY SYMPATHETIC. THE SUBJECT IS NOT  
ONE THE NORWEGIANS ARE ANXIOUS TO ADDRESS OR FOCUS  
PUBLIC ATTENTION ON DESPITE AN OVERALL MORAL AVERSION  
TO ARMS TRADE. PUBLIC OPINION WOULD PROBABLY FORCE  
THE NORWEGIANS TO ATTEND AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS. AS  
AN ARMS PURCHASER RATHER THAN SUPPLIER, NORWAY HAS NOT  
CONSIDERED THE ISSUE OF ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF TRANSFER  
RESTRAINTS AND HAS NO POSITION ON THIS TO THE BEST OF  
OUR KNOWLEDGE.

4. FURTHERMORE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE FLEDGLING  
ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY ITSELF WOULD SUPPORT ANY FORECLOSING  
OF FUTURE SALES OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH AN AGREEMENT  
RESTRAINING CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS. NORWEGIANS  
ARE COMMITTED TO STANDARDIZATION VIA THE TWO-WAY  
STREET AND TO THE MANUFACTURE OF COMPONENTS UNDER  
THE FIVE-NATION MOU TO COPRODUCE F-16.

5. WE NOTE THAT THE LOCAL ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY DOES NOT  
HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON THE OVERALL ECONOMIC SITUATION NOR  
ARE THERE SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT OR BALANCE OF PAYMENT  
PROBLEMS TO ENHANCE THE MODEST INFLUENCE OF THE ARMS  
PRODUCERS IN NORWAY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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